

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /157 W

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R 231800Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T LONDON 09738

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 166471 (B) STATE 165414

1. ON AUGUST 22 WE DISCUSSED GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF (A) WITH BRAITHWAITE OF FCO. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY GENERAL TONE OF GUIDANCE ON GROUNDS THAT IT REFLECTS POSITION TOWARD WHICH HMG IS MOVING. HE FELT HMG WILL GO ALONG WITH AN APPROACH SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED PARA 4 REF (A) IN WHICH (1) ALLIANCE ACCEPTS OUTER LIMITS OF ALLIED AND US REDUCTIONS (2) THERE IS AGREEMENT ON WHERE WE WANT TO GO, I.E. ON OBJECTIVES AND (3) THERE IS AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED TO ACHIEVE GOALS. AT SAME TIME BRAITHWAITE NOTED THAT BRITISH CONTINUE TO HOLD TO POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO HOLD OFF ADDUCING NUMBERS EARLY IN NEGOTIATIONS AT LEAST UNTIL THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES AND AIRING OF DISPARITIES

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BETWEEN NATO AND PACT.

2. RE POSSIBILITY US MIGHT DECIDE TO INCREASE REDUCTIONS (PARA 4 REF A) BRAITHWAITE SAID HMG DOES NOT QUESTION GOOD FAITH OF US IN THE SENSE US WOULD MAKE "DECISION" ON THIS POINT BUT RATHER FEARS THAT IN NEGOTIATIONS US MAY BE FORCED TO GO BEYOND AGREED LIMITS.

3. BRAITHWAITE SAID IT NOT HMG POLICY THAT NATO SHOULD ADOPT A RANGE OF PROPOSALS PER PARA 6 REF (A). THIS MAY HAVE BEEN PERSONAL VIEWS OF OFFICIALS IN UKNATO BUT DOES NOT REFLECT HMG POSITION WHICH IS TO HAVE ONE COORDINATED ALLIED POSITION. TACTICS ON TIMING OF PARTS OF THIS PACKAGE MIGHT BE POINT OF DIFFERENCE BUT NOT IDEA OF ONE NATO PROPOSAL.

4. RE "FLOOR" CONCEPT, BRAITHWAITE FELT THAT GUIDELINES (SECTION I) OF NATO POSITION WOULD IN END TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM. POINT IS TO IDENTIFY LIMITS ON WHAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO SOVIETS.

5. REGARDING UK PAPER ON SOVIET ATTITUDES (REF B) WE INDICATED USG DOES NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE TO ATTEMPT A COMMON EVALUATION ON THIS SUBJECT. BRAITHWAITE CONCURRED. HE SAID HMG HAS NO INTENTION TO TRY TO GET ALLIANCE TO AGREE ON A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT. UK EFFORT IS FOR EDUCATION ONLY AND INTENDED TO HELP WITH ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION OF ITS POSITION ON MBFR.

6. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, BRAITHWAITE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ALLIANCE WILL REACH AGREEMENT ON A NEGOTIATING POSITION. HE FEELS PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION WILL ACCELERATE AS TIME FOR ACTUAL NEGOTIATION NEARS.

7. COMMENT: WE FOUND BRAITHWAITE'S REACTION ENCOURAGING, POSSIBLY MOST POSITIVE WE HAVE HAD FROM FCO OFFICIAL FOR SOME TIME. BRAITHWAITE'S REACTION WAS SUBSTANTIATED TODAY BY WIGGIN WHO SAID THAT HE WAS "FORTIFIED" BY EXPOSITION WE HAD MADE YESTERDAY TO BRAITHWAITE. WIGGIN, TOO, THOUGHT US AND UK POSITIONS WERE DRAWING CLOSER, BUT NOTED THAT THERE REMAIN SUBSTANTIAL POINTS OF DIFFERENCE, PARTICULARLY US VIEWS ON PHASE TWO. HE SEEMED
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DISMAYED BY US STAND WHICH WENT FARTHER THAN BRITISH THINK DESIRABLE IN COMMITMENT TO PHASE TWO.

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